

TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS TWICE.

"Platte county will have to put up about an even ten thousand dollars more than we had to pay last year in state taxes. Republican legislatures and governors come high. Railroad rule in Nebraska is expensive. Mickey is a good thing but powerful expensive. But why complain? Perhaps the Gods foreordained that the farmers of Platte county should dig up more than their share of state taxes."—Columbus Telegram.

Both statements above contain elements of truth. Both contain elements of injustice and unfairness. Inferences from the Telegram's statement must be wrong. Inferences from the Journal's statement might be wrong. Democrats who detect unfairness in the second, must admit the unfairness in the first statement. The Journal will not go on record for such unfairness. We will explain both statements.

Platte county has to pay a larger state tax under the new law, because under the old law the levy could not be made high enough to keep the state out of debt and at the same time provide for the growing state institutions. The new law was enacted for the very purpose of enabling Platte county and other counties to pay more taxes. We have in other issues of the Journal given figures, showing that the state debt increased as fast under fusion as under republican rule.

Our county has gone behind \$10,000 during the last two years, either because of the same defective revenue law that put the state behind, or because of the extravagance of Platte county commissioners. The last charge we will not make till we can prove it. Criticism of all public officers should be withheld until there is ground for it. At any rate the county levy has been made to the limit of the law by democrats the same as the state levy has been made to the limit by republicans and both have failed to pay expenses.

The only difference is that the county tax is twice as large as the state tax, therefore the action of democratic county administrations bears twice as hard on the taxpayers as the action of republican state administrations.

Taxpayers, do you want to transfer your county administration to the state house?

CITY OWNERSHIP.

The committee instructed by the city council last Friday night to consult the city attorney as to the legal aspect of the question of voting bonds to establish an electric light plant will make a favorable report. City Attorney Cornelius finds that the law permits the city to vote bonds not to exceed 2 1/2 per cent of the city's assessed valuation for the purpose of establishing an electric light plant. The assessed valuation of the city is about \$600,000. Bonds for \$15,000 may, therefore, be voted. The only question that remains is, "Do the taxpayers of Columbus want to own and operate their own lighting system?" It is for the taxpayers and not the newspapers of Columbus to answer this question. The answer of some of the heaviest taxpayers are recorded in this issue of the Journal.

Better service for less money; dividends in the pockets of every one of the service, rather than in the pocket of an individual owner; efficiency of service instead of the least efficient service that the public will stand for and pay for—these are some of the things to be gained by city ownership.

How much cheaper? Conservative business men believe that home capitalists would save up \$15,000 worth of bonds at five per cent or less, making the interest payable annually not to exceed \$750. The employment of an electrician would cost not to exceed \$750 a year. Those familiar with conditions here say that no additional help would be necessary, as the present city engineers could handle the work. At a cost of \$1500 a year, with a little additional for coal, the city could operate its own plant. The present cost to the city of less than twenty street lights is about \$1700 a year. The city could, therefore, save money for Columbus taxpayers if it operated a plant simply to furnish street lights. And if enough lights were sold to individual users to pay the cost of the service, the saving to taxpayers would be \$1700 a year, or enough to pay for the plant in less than ten years. After that, this amount would be saved to the individual users.

What are the legal steps to city ownership? First, a petition to the city council, signed by ten taxpayers in each ward, requesting a special election to be called for the purpose of voting on the question of bonds. Second, the action of the council on this petition, calling the election after twenty days notice.

Third, a majority of the votes cast at this election determines the question of taxing bonds. What are other cities doing? Several are one of the many Nebraska cities in the same class with Columbus that successfully own and operate their own plants. At a cost of \$11,000 Seward has a plant that furnishes lights to individual users at a rate below the present Columbus rate. Their plant is self-supporting, clearing about \$50 a month after providing for interest, expenses and a sinking fund.

While everything seems to favor city ownership, the question should be thoroughly investigated. The Journal will give its space freely for views on both sides of the question. Whatever action is taken should be guided purely by principles of economy and not by sentiment. If the city votes to own its own plant, the material of the present plant should be bought if possible, to save a duplication of material and as a matter of justice to the owner.

RAILROAD JOHN.

The utter failure of the opposition press to point out a single point in Governor Mickey's record which is open to attack, notwithstanding the fact that repeated challenges have been made to them to do so, is about all there is to mention in the argument on the gubernatorial contest. If Mickey had left himself open in any respect, the democrats would not have failed to call attention to the fact. As far as the Platte county press is concerned, only one paper has had the nerve to attempt a definite charge against the governor, and this courage was exceedingly short-lived. The Tele-

gram brought up the oil question, introduced a discharged official as sole witness and invented the title of "Coal Oil John." It was our happy privilege to lay before the public both sides of the oil episode, and since that time the euphonious title of Coal Oil John has been relegated to the dead state. We wish now to ask the Telegram to say definitely and concretely for what reason and on what evidence it applies to the governor of this state such names as "railroad tool," "outcast of corporations," and other appellations of similar elegance and indelicacy. For the sake of brevity in the argument, we would suggest that the governor be dubbed "Railroad John." If this title should prove to be something of a boomerang, our contemporary will escape the uncomfortable position of being the promulgator thereof.

If one man calls another a thief and a liar, the other certainly is entitled to ask for particulars. When a public print accuses a public official of dishonesty, the public as well as the official may with propriety demand a definite and straightforward statement. It is so easy to deal in "glittering generalities" on the stump and in editorial columns, and it so frequently happens that the accused damages nothing but his own reputation for sincerity and reliability. We pause for a reply.

DEMOCRACY'S PLIGHT.

It was a mighty mean thing for Senator Fairbanks to call attention to the fact that Grandfather Davis was 85 years old before the end of the term for which he has been nominated, and that there is always the possibility that the vice-president may be called upon to assume the office and strenuous duties of president. The idea of a man of 85 years filling the place of Roosevelt is a trifle amusing. No doubt, in such a case, Senator Kilgus, the son-in-law of the antique statesman, would be de facto president, and Kilgus is a good republican. And this is only one of the absurdities involved in democracy's present positions. Bryan and Hill are two of the smoothest political manipulators in the business, but when they get together and fight and finally compromise, the result is beautiful to behold. There is only one thing on earth that could please both Bryan and Hill, that is that they should be elected both to the presidency. Since the constitution provides for only one president at a time, harmony between W. J. Bryan and David B. Hill must remain a dream and a deferred hope until such time as they are both dead, when doubtless they will meet again, possibly in harmony.

At present Hill undoubtedly supports Parker, with no hope of his election, having nominated him merely to fortify himself in the control of the democratic organization Bryan supports Parker in one paragraph and fights him by the column. Harmony between Bryan and Hill is a beautiful dream.

WORDS, WORDS, WORDS.

The following may be charged to the Spalding Enterprise:

"President Roosevelt has been notified of his nomination for the great office which he is now filling, and has accepted the same in a speech filled with high sounding words, a large majority of which we have heard before."

We are glad to note that the editor of the Enterprise was already acquainted with more than half of the words used by the president. However, we can go on him considerably better. We have heard all of these before and can easily pronounce all of them, for money. If our friend believes that political doctrine should be couched in strange and unheard-of words, we would refer him to some of the esoptrical verbiage of one Grover Cleveland on the subject of the communion of pelf, tawacousness, and other such.

The trusts consider Roosevelt a dangerous man because he is liable to do something that they don't want. All they have to do is to say that he is dangerous and every 7 by 9 politician in the country is out talking the same thing. Don't it make you weary?—Schuyler Free Lance. (Pop.)

The State Board.

The state board of assessment and equalization has completed its labor and it has done well. The task of applying the new system of revenue when different localities, classes and interests were seeking to beat one another was a most difficult one, and while of course the work of the board is not flawless, it would be hard to select another set of men who would do better. Every editor, every real estate man, every merchant, every farmer, is certain that he could have settled the railway taxation matter in a half hour, but gather six of these men together and you will see how their opinions will differ and how easily any of them can be tempted when it comes to figuring on railway valuations.

Summarized, the work of the new board and the board has been to raise the total valuation of the state from \$168,458,397, 44 last year to \$204,731,806.95. As it has fixed the state levy at 4 mills there will be a slight increase in revenue.

Now let us see who has been hit the hardest by the law passed by a "railroad legislature" and administered by a board composed of naughty, man-eating, blood-sucking, corporation scabs.

Last year the property of all kinds in Nebraska, exclusive of the railroads, was assessed at \$161,137,432.44; this year it is \$248,638,466.30.

The increase is 54 1/4 per cent.

Last year railroad property was assessed at \$27,394,946. This year the railroad properties are valued at \$46,085,553.75.

There is a mistake in almost every argument which answers all the claims that is being circulated about "redeeming" the state. The state is "redeemed," thank you, and never was in more safe hands than it is today.

One might go further along this line and show that a goodly part of that 54 per cent rise in farm and personal property is presented by property just brought to light, which of course would lower the proportion of increase on property formerly assessed, and it might be shown, too, that if the county boards exercise good judgment in making the levies taxes on farm properties will be lowered on the whole, and other facts as interesting and as pleasant to contemplate might be cited. But the all absorbing question here is, "Who will get the worst of it?" and the answer thereupon record absolutely refuting the charges, slanders and insinuations of members of the opposition party who desired the law to fail, prayed for it to fail, hampered the board in every possible way in order to bring about a failure but now are forced to shy away from the figures as the evil ones before the sign of the cross.

When discussing state politics with a fanatic, just write down the figures "70" and write "railroads" opposite them; then write down the figures "54" on a line with the "the people" and see how suddenly your joint debate will terminate. Those figures and words represent the proportion of increase for the two classes of property this year. Remember them and hold them up for the inspection of your populists or democratic neighbors. A two hours speech could not be more effective.—E. J.

Nebraska is Republican.

"I have read several published statements," said a member of the Republican State Central Committee yesterday, "and have heard it often said that the legislature will be close this year and the Republicans may fail to have a majority. I have been looking into the matter and have gathered together some figures that ought to settle it. As a consequence I predict that the Republicans will have over 100 members of the next legislature."

"There are 133 members of the legislature. In the last legislature there were 106 Republicans and 28 Fusionists. The majority of 75. Seventy-six of the Republican members had 80 per cent of the vote. Only 8 of the 28 Fusionists had a majority of over 20 per cent. The 28 Fusionists elected by less than 200 majority each, the average majority was 114, while 20 Fusionists were elected by an average majority of 60 each."

"The Republican majorities of the 29 that were elected by less than 200 votes were as follows: 3, 10, 41, 53, 55, 63, 70, 84, 90, 98, 107, 109, 110, 119, 120, 127, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 156, 174, 180, 184, 198, 199. On the other hand, the majorities of the 20 Fusionists elected by less than 200 votes are as follows: 2, 6, 11, 14, 15, 20, 25, 28, 35, 44, 53, 55, 61, 73, 93, 111, 131, 140 and 138."

"A glance at the figures reveals some peculiarities. The Republicans had 95 members elected by a majority of over 100 votes, while the Fusionists elected only 12 members by over 100 majority. It shows also that there are in the Republican column and that they are very much closer than the so-called close Republican districts."

"It has been frequently stated that a few votes properly distributed would change the complexion of the legislature. The facts are, as the figures show, that if every one of the 29 districts that the republicans carried by less than 200 majority, were added to the 28 fusionists, it would give them only 56 votes and leave the republicans 76, a majority of 19. On the other hand, it is also a fact that a change of less than 2,000 votes in the state properly distributed would wipe out every fusion member of the legislature. Of course the fusion districts which elected their members of the legislature by majorities of less than 100 each, many will no doubt go republican this year. The records show that if all the districts which the fusionists carried at the last election, either for the legislature, or for congressmen or on supreme judge last year, were to go fusionist at the next election and Douglas county should go fusion, the republicans would still have a good working majority of the legislature. It will be seen that nothing but a landslide could prevent the next legislature being republican, and nothing indicates that Judge Parker will come such a result in as staunch a Republican state as Nebraska."—State Journal, July 31.

Edgar Howard indicates again that the road will be very long and the hills very steep for Silas A. Holcomb, but if the fusionists nominate him, Howard will support him, of course.—Freeman Tribune.

A Common View.

One of the best ones of the daily common report contains an extract from the Frankfurter Zeitung, one of the leading newspapers of Germany, containing some interesting and instructive matter on the commercial importance to America, of the Panama Canal. We quote a few paragraphs which are worthy of careful reading.

"The fruits of the enterprise consist in direct profits; they must be looked for in the military-political fields and in the promotion of American commerce. In this lies the center of gravity of the situation."

Of what real advantage the role center of the waterway in times of war will be to the United States will be seen only after a long time. The consequences for commercial navigation are more evident. If looked at with European eyes, they appear small. What will the Panama Canal offer us?

To the whole of eastern Asia and to Australia, inclusive of New Zealand, the way via the Suez Canal will remain much the nearer for Europe. From Hamburg to Hongkong, for instance, the distance is via Suez 10,549 nautical miles, via Panama 14,933; to Melbourne, via Suez 12,567, via Panama 13,196; to Yokohama, via Suez 12,531, via Panama 13,024. The Australian Archipelago plays too unimportant a role to have the reduction of distance to it considered in this connection.

For Europe, therefore, there remains a saving only in tariff with the west coast of America.

Of these countries Chile is the most important, and is hardly affected, so far as Europe is concerned, by the Panama Canal. Hamburg received from Chile \$23,300,000 worth of products and shipped \$9,000,000 worth in return. This is between one-third and one-half of the total commerce with the western coast. Vessels laden with nitrate and guano will undoubtedly prefer the route around Cape Horn, which is not much longer, and for cargoes of such little value will be preferable to that by way of the Panama Canal, which is subject to heavy tolls.

The exchange of goods with the countries to which the lessening of distance is the greatest, namely west of Mexico and California, is of only moderate importance. The saving of nautical miles between Hamburg and San Francisco and all harbors on the western coast north of Panama is 6,402; south of Panama the saving constantly decreases. Between Hamburg and Valparaiso it amounts to only about 2,400 nautical miles.

This saving is very much larger for the eastern ports of the United States, namely, 9,531 nautical miles between New York and San Francisco, so that New York on this route gains 2,889 nautical miles more than Hamburg. But this is not all. The main fact is that this saving is so large on the route from New York to eastern Asia and Australia that it changes the present disadvantage of New York into an advantage. From Hamburg to Hongkong via Suez, the distance is 10,549 nautical miles; from New York to Hongkong, via Suez, it is 11,655 miles. Hamburg therefore has an advantage of about 1,100 nautical miles. The Panama Canal will give nothing to Hamburg, but a saving of 1,800 nautical miles to New York so that the distance will only be 9,855 nautical miles, 704 less than from Hamburg. In routes to the more northern parts of eastern Asia, as well as the eastern Australia, the gain of New York grows very materially. From Hamburg, via Suez, Melbourne the distance is 12,567 nautical miles; from New York about 12,500. Via Panama, however, the distance from New York is only 10,427, so it will be about 2,000 nautical miles nearer to the Australian port than Hamburg. To Yokohama the distance from Hamburg is 12,531 nautical miles; from New York it is 11,200 nautical miles, a saving of 1,331 nautical miles longer than from Hamburg. Through the Panama route New York gains 3,790 nautical miles in the Japan line; Hamburg nothing. New York has therefore a distance of only 9,855 nautical miles to Yokohama—that is in round numbers, 3,700 nautical miles less than Hamburg. In shipping to Japan and southern China, and in a lower degree, to southern China and Australia, New York will have the advantage, on account of shorter steamer trips, over Hamburg and the English ports. If Europe has been heretofore in a more advantageous position, North America will be the favored party when the Panama Canal is built."

Tom-Tom.

Lincoln, Mo., (Correspondence.)

"The populist leaders who are opposed to fusion and nearly all the 'old guard' are included in that category—are preparing to organize a 'Tom-Tom' club to promote the interests of Tom Watson and Tom Tillman. Among these sinner-pure populists there is but one sentiment with them to fusion and that is that if the democratic party had the right to put up an electoral ticket in the field in this state the populists will be ready to treat with them on state candidates. Otherwise 'Puddle you own canoe' will be the slogan of the populists."

From a republican standpoint it makes little or no difference what the leaders of the two parties may decide to do. The leaders may fuse but the voters will not. A "reform" who will support Parker and all that Parker stands for cannot poll the vote of either of the parties. The sanity of a man who will preach anti-monopoly, free silver, honest government and fair ballot before the voters of Nebraska and at the same time support Parker, corporation rule, the gold standard and Tammany may be admirable, but his position does not appeal to the voters of his state who for eight years have battled for what they believed was right—and it was not Fusionism, Hillism or Tammanyism.

"Influence back of the Parker candidacy are so intimately associated with the trusts and great corporations that the Democratic party could not support the man. The second objection is that he cannot win. With such a candidate the battle will begin with a foot race and end with a rout."—W. J. Bryan.

There are you at, Mr. McKillip, on the Kansas City or St. Louis platform? The people have a right to know.—Laugh World.

FRIEDHOF & Co

Gents' Furnishing Goods

Sale on Shirts for 3 days only. Thursday Friday and Saturday, August 11, 12 and 13.

Note These Prices

A snap in soft Negligee shirts, collar attached in blue and red stripes, sizes 12 to 17 inches, just the shirt for summer wear, worth 50c, ON SALE THREE DAYS 25c

We place on sale 25 dozen Men's and Young Men's Shirts, fine woven madras, sizes 12 to 17 inches. This shirt Marshall, Field & Co., Chicago, sold in the early part of the season for \$3.50 per dozen. On sale above dates for only 39c

Men's unlaundried White Shirts, sizes 14 to 17. 50c VALUES DURING THIS SALE FOR 25c

All our Men's and Young Men's Two-Piece Suits at LESS THAN COST!

STRAW HATS, if you need one, cost not taken into consideration. We wish to close them out.

250 pairs Men's All-Wool Casimere Pants. \$5.00 pants now \$3.00. \$4.00 pants now \$2.50. \$3.50 pants now \$2.00, and on down.

We are cleaning up on Boy's Short Pants. A good pair for 15c. 50c and 75c Pants now 35c.

25c Bow Tie for 15c. 50c Four-in-hand Ties 25c.

50c SUMMER VESTS left. Just half former price.

REMEMBER THE DATES: Thursday, August 11. Friday, August 12. Saturday, August 13.

REMNANT SALE DATES: Thursday, August 11. Friday, August 12. Saturday, August 13.

FRIEDHOF & Co

In the fiscal year that has just closed the excess of income over the ordinary expenditures was nine millions of dollars. This does not take account of the fifty millions expended out of the accumulated surplus for the purchase of the Isthmian Canal. It is an extraordinary proof of the sound financial condition of the nation that instead of following the usual course in such matters and throwing the burden upon posterity by an issue of bonds, we were able to make the payment outright and yet after it to have the Treasury a surplus of one hundred and sixty-one millions. Moreover, we were able to pay this fifty millions of dollars out of hand without causing the slightest disturbance to business conditions.—Theodore Roosevelt.

In all of this we are more fortunate than our opponents, who now appeal for confidence on the ground, which some express and some seek to have confidentially understood, that if triumphant they may be trusted to provide for the future. In the last eight years they have laid down, as vital, and to leave undisturbed that have gone by we have made the dead square with the word; and if we are continued in power we shall unswervingly follow out the great lines of public policy which the Republican party has already laid down; a public policy to which we are giving and shall give, a united, and therefore an efficient, support.—Theodore Roosevelt.

Three years ago I became President because of the death of my immediate predecessor. I then stated that it was my purpose to carry out his principles and policies for the honor and the interest of the country. To the best of my ability I have kept the promise thus made. If next November my countrymen confirm at the polls the action of the convention you represent I shall, under Providence, continue to work with an eye single to the welfare of all our people.—Theodore Roosevelt.

We know what we mean when we speak of an honest and stable currency. We mean the same thing from year to year. We do not have to avoid a definite and consecutive commitment on the most important issue which has recently been before the people, and which may at any time in the near future be before them again.—Theodore Roosevelt.

There is a good deal of talk about Mr. Bryan being a better, Judge Parker in the greatest of all democratic bosses. He bolted the platform of the St. Louis convention and is still standing on one made for him by the Belmonts.—Newman Grove Herald.

A disreputable newspaper calls the democratic candidate for vice-president, "Hank". Shame on such irreverence to the aged!—Wahoe Wasp.

Where are you at, Mr. McKillip, on the Kansas City or St. Louis platform? The people have a right to know.—Laugh World.

Upon the principles which underlie this issue, the convictions of half of our number do not clash with those of the other half. So long as the Republican party is in power the gold standard is settled, not as a matter of temporary political expediency, but because of shifting conditions in the production of gold in certain mining centers, but in accordance with what we regard as the fundamental principles of national morality and wisdom.—Theodore Roosevelt.

If the result of the November election depended upon the people of Nebraska, Mr. Roosevelt would be elected almost unanimously, for he is a man such as the western people delight to honor.—Fall City Journal.

COLUMBIANS.

Our cat now takes a piano lesson every day.

Half the world is playing piano on the salary of a pauper, and the other half is playing piano on the income of a pauper.

Have you noticed how much more effective the argument of even a street singer is when it is presented in grammatical English?

If we had Chris Grentler's pocketbook and the \$10 reward is still in sight, we should certainly return it to him, provided of course that it proved to contain no more than he allows.

To him who gets pay, retribution is generally a pretty swift. Last week we took occasion to make a few remarks on the subject of libel in the form of wedding invitations. The following morning we received a bid to the marriage of a man whom we have not seen or heard from for twelve years.

It is very evident that when good old Bishop Potter opened his Christian mission in New York he started something. It would seem, generally speaking, that the bishop has drawn upon himself the condemnation of those who talk and the appreciation of those who keep still. We are much gratified, probably more than the bishop is, to see this state of adverse criticism directed against a good and good man. It is not the bishop's fault, and not altogether the fault of his critics; the bishop is a good man, and the criticism is a good thing.

In the Fatherland a pastor will lead his flock of devout and honest men, women and children down to the waste water, and there will stand a large and comfortable stein. In this country they go home severely and fish cold bottles out of the ice-boxes in their respective houses. Probationaries of course are unalterably opposed to the Christian tavern, but prohibitionists are very intemperate in their abstinance. Temperance men very often want a drink that changes the color of the face, and respectability, respectable place and get pure liquor than into the average saloon where they may get adulterated goods. Most of the critics of Bishop Potter say that the Christian mission is a good thing for the public, but say it is not a good thing for the bishop. We are of the opinion that the bishop is plenty able to rustic for himself, and even his flock, but his flock is not his flock.

When I come to the time when I have to bring to church, in order to help me along. In my business, I think I shall try and live up to the doctrine I preach; if I need a small cup of coffee, I will get it, and I will get it from the town pump and get it, so that I may show.

That I mean what I say.

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